

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the original and sole Inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the Invention entitled: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification including the claims.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/734,340, filed December 11, 2000, and U.S. Provisional Application 60/221,615, filed July 28, 2000, and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of these applications are not disclosed in those prior applications in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior applications and the filing date of this application.

I hereby appoint William B. Ritchie, Registration No. 33,118, as my attorney with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute my above-identified application for Letters Patent and to transact all business in the Patent Office connected therewith.

I further direct that correspondence concerning this application be directed to William B. Ritchie, The Ritchie Law Office, 43 Jackson Street, Concord, New Hampshire, 03301, Telephone (603) 225-5212

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 USC 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of inventor: Mehdi Kashani

Signature:

*m.kashani*

Date:

*13 July 2001*

Residence:

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Attorney Docket No. 5001-001

Express Mail No. EL676349804US

In re application of  
Mehdi Kashani  
Serial No. To Be Assigned  
Filed: Concurrently

For: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD

**VERIFIED DECLARATION OF SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
UNDER 37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(b)  
INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, USC, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the above-referenced patent application filed herewith.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 USC 1001, and may jeopardize the validity of the Application, any Patent issuing thereon, or any Patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Inventor: Mehdi Kashani

M. Kashani  
Signature

13 July 2001  
Date